

In the Claims

The following is an amendment to and a complete listing of the claims which replaces all prior listings of claims in this application.

1. (Currently amended) An ancillary ~~Ancillary~~ tool for positioning ~~an acetabular prosthesis and seating a prosthetic acetabulum~~ in an anatomical or prosthetic cavity of a patient's hip, the tool comprising:

[[~~-~~]] a handle for manipulating the acetabulum provided, ~~in its adjacent~~ a distal ~~[[part]] end thereof~~, with a head ~~for gripping the acetabulum and, in its at~~ a proximal part, with a surface for application of a force ~~of impaction, and along said handle,~~

[[~~-~~]] ~~at least one added~~ an endpiece adapted to be removably connected to ~~[[the]]~~ said distal end of ~~[[the]]~~ said handle and including an elastically deformable ring that is moveable both radially outwardly by force and radially inwardly when the force is relieved relative to a longitudinal axis of said handle and that defines ~~defining~~ both ~~[[a]]~~ an outer face for ~~wedging engagement with an inner surface of~~ the acetabulum and an opposite inner face for interaction of ~~[[the]]~~ said endpiece with the head of the handle, and

wherein ~~[[the]]~~ force is applied along said handle to urge said head into engagement with said inner face of said endpiece comprises a supple ring and said elastically deformable ring expands radially deformable with respect to the longitudinal axis of the endpiece, on which are formed the wedging and interaction faces to wedge with the inner surface of the acetabulum to permit manipulation and placement of the acetabulum by the handle and subsequently cause expansion and seating of the acetabulum within the anatomical or prosthetic cavity.

2. (currently amended) The tool of Claim 1, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ said elastically deformable ring is radially deformable over substantially the whole of its an entire periphery thereof.

3. (currently amended) The tool of Claim 1, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ said outer face of [[the]] said elastically deformable ring of constitutes substantially an entire surface of said endpiece intended for wedging acetabulum is constituted by substantially the whole outer face of the ring so that substantially all of the entire surface of the endpiece is elastically deformable.

4. (currently amended) The tool of Claim 1, wherein ~~[[the]]~~

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said endpiece ~~comprises~~ includes both a supple part including ~~[[the]]~~ said elastically deformable ring and a rigid part ~~fast~~ with the secured to said supple part, and said rigid part including ~~provided with~~ means for ~~removable connection~~ removably connecting said endpiece to ~~[[the]]~~ said distal end of ~~[[the]]~~ said handle.

5. (currently amended) The tool of Claim 4, wherein the rigid part of ~~[[the]]~~ said endpiece is constituted by a metallic insert ~~[[fixed]]~~ secured to ~~[[the]]~~ said supple part.

6. (currently amended) The tool of Claim 4, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ said supple part includes a generally hemispherical base to which said elastically deformable ring is elastically connected ~~to a~~ base of the supple part.

7. (currently amended) The tool of Claim 1, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ said elastically deformable ring ~~comprises~~ includes a plurality of petals, ~~the wedging and interaction~~ said outer and inner faces of said elastically deformable ring being respectively constituted by ~~[[the]]~~ outer and inner surfaces of each of ~~[[these]]~~ said petals.

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8. (currently amended) The tool of Claim 4, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ said rigid part of ~~[[the]]~~ said endpiece defines a stop surface, in ~~[[the]]~~ a longitudinal direction of ~~[[the]]~~ said handle, for ~~[[the]]~~ said head of ~~[[the]]~~ said handle.

9. (currently amended) The tool of Claim 4, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ said supple part of ~~[[the]]~~ said endpiece presents at least one surface for transmission of the force ~~of impaction~~ between ~~[[the]]~~ said handle and ~~[[the]]~~ said acetabulum.

10. (currently amended) The tool of Claim 1, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ said head of ~~[[the]]~~ said handle defines a ramp surface adapted to ~~cooperate~~ cooperatively engage with ~~the interaction~~ said inner face of ~~[[the]]~~ said elastically deformable ring of said endpiece.

11. (currently amended) The tool of Claim 1, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ said handle ~~comprises~~ includes a rigid rod on which ~~[[the]]~~ said head is movably mounted, as well as means for driving ~~[[the]]~~ said head with respect to ~~[[the]]~~ said rod in a movement of translation in ~~[[the]]~~ a longitudinal direction of ~~[[the]]~~ said rod.

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12. (currently amended) The tool of Claim 11, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ said handle ~~comprises~~ includes a sleeve disposed coaxially to ~~[[the]]~~ said rod and at ~~[[the]]~~ a distal end of which ~~[[the]]~~ said head is rigidly fixed, and ~~[[the]]~~ said means for driving ~~[[the]]~~ said head with respect to ~~[[the]]~~ said rod ~~comprise~~ includes a grip screwed on ~~[[the]]~~ said rod and connected in translation with ~~[[the]]~~ said sleeve, ~~[[this]]~~ and said sleeve being immobilized in rotation with respect to ~~[[the]]~~ said rod.

13. (currently amended) The tool of Claim 12, wherein a ring member is axially interposed between ~~[[the]]~~ said sleeve and ~~the~~ screwed said grip.

14. (currently amended) ~~A Method~~ method for positioning ~~an acetabular prosthesis~~ a prosthetic acetabulum in an anatomical or prosthetic cavity of a patient's hip, comprising the steps of:

~~[[-]] using, on the one hand,~~ providing a tool having a handle for manipulating the acetabulum, provided, ~~in its~~ adjacent a distal ~~[[part]]~~ end thereof, with a head for cooperatively engaging an inner face of an elastically deformable ring of an endpiece that is used to grip an internal surface of ~~gripping the~~ acetabulum and which endpiece is removably secured to the distal end of the handle, and wherein the handle ~~at its proximal end,~~

~~with a surface~~ includes elements ~~for application of applying a~~
~~force of impaction, and, on the other hand, a series of endpieces~~
~~of different dimensions and/or geometry, each comprising a supple~~
to urge the head into cooperative engagement with an inner face
of the elastically deformable ring to thereby ~~radially deformable~~
expand the elastically deformable ring with respect to ~~[[the]]~~ a
longitudinal axis of the endpiece, and wherein the elastically
deformable ring includes ~~on which are formed both [[a]]~~ an outer
face for wedging against an inner surface of the acetabulum and
which is opposite the inner face ~~for interaction of that~~
interacts the endpiece with the head of the handle,

~~--selecting, from the series of endpieces, an endpiece of~~
~~which the wedging face is substantially complementary of the~~
~~inner wall of the acetabulum to be conn positioned,~~

~~--connecting the endpiece to the distal end of the handle,~~

[[-]] placing the endpiece in the acetabulum,

[[-]] placing the endpiece in engagement ~~[[by]]~~ with the
head of the handle and providing a first force between the head
and the endpiece so as to provoke radial elastic deformation of
the elastically deformable ring ~~and consequently to thereby~~ grip
[[of]] the acetabulum by the endpiece,

[[-]] positioning the acetabulum in the cavity of the
patient's hip,

[[~~-~~]] ~~applying a second force of impaction on the corresponding surface of~~ along the handle to cause the head to expand the elastically deformable ring to thereby expand the acetabulum,

[[~~-~~]] disengaging the head from the endpiece and releasing the second force to allow the elastically deformable ring to recover to a non-expanded configuration , and

[[~~-~~]] withdrawing the endpiece from the positioned acetabulum.

15. (new) The method of claim 14 including the additional steps of providing a plurality of endpieces of different sizes and/or geometric configurations, selecting an endpiece from the plurality of endpieces that closely matches the inner surface of the acetabulum and securing the selected endpiece to the distal end of the handle.